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UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

The Chairman

May 1989

Dear School Official:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is very concerned about children being killed on adult-size all terrain vehicles (ATVs). The Commission knows of 515 deaths to children under 16 years of age; this is almost half of the total death toll. In addition, the Commission knows of approximately 165,000 emergency room-treated injuries to children under 16 years of age, which is almost half of all ATV-related injuries. Most of these deaths and injuries to children involved adult-size ATVs (more than 90 cc engine size).

Here is a Safety Alert about the hazard of children being killed or injured on adult-size ATVs. I ask you to warn your students not to ride adult-size ATVs. Please use this Safety Alert in the following ways:

--Reprint and distribute this Safety Alert to all of your students before they leave for summer vacation.

--Post the Safety Alert in classrooms and on bulletin boards where students can see it.

--Ask teachers to discuss the hazard of children riding adult-size ATVs, explaining to students that they could be killed or seriously injured.

--Ask the PTA and all parents to talk with their children about the hazard of children riding adult-size ATVs.

Please join us in helping reach young people and their parents with this vital safety warning. If you have any questions or need more information, write to Carl Blechschmidt, Program Manager, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207.

Sincerely,

Anne Graham
Acting Chairman

Attachment

P.S. -- We are giving you two versions: one to reprint and the other to post.

Y3.C 76/3:2T

READEX FICHE best copy available

Consumer Product SAFETY ALERT

FROM THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

May 1939

Almost one-half of ATV-related deaths and injuries are to children

IF YOU ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 16 NEVER RIDE ADULT SIZE ATVs

There is a high risk that you could be killed on an adult-size ATV (over 90cc engine size)

Of the 1,245 ATV-related deaths reported to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission since 1982, 515 victims were under 16 years of age (41 percent). Almost 20 percent were under 12 years of age. In 1987, CPSC estimated that there were 77,400 ATV-related injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms. Almost half of the injured persons were also under 16 years of age.

ATVs are difficult to ride and require constant attention to avoid accidents. Children under the age of 16 should not operate adult-size (over 90 cc) ATVs. The risk of injury for 12-15 year-old drivers of adult ATVs is over two times the average risk of injury on ATVs. CPSC has received reports of 283 deaths to children between 12 and 15 years of age. Most deaths have occurred on adult-size ATVs.

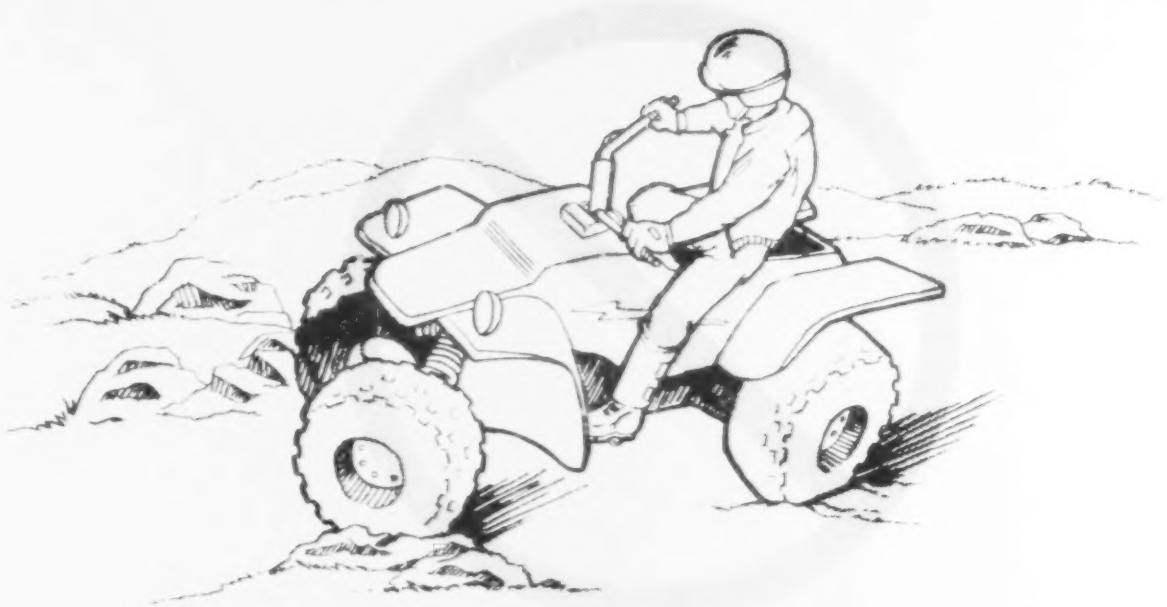
An ATV is not a toy and can be hazardous to operate. An ATV handles differently from other vehicles, including motorcycles and cars. A collision or rollover can occur quickly even during routine maneuvers such as turning and driving on hills and over obstacles, if you fail to take proper precautions. For more information about ATV safety, call the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's toll-free number at 1-800-638-2772. A teletypewriter for the hearing impaired is available at 1-800-638-8270; the Maryland TTY number is 1-800-492-8104.

You could be killed on an adult-size ATV!

Almost one-half of ATV-related deaths and injuries are to children under 16. Most deaths have occurred on adult-size ATVs.

PLEASE POST

⚠ WARNING



You could be killed on an adult-size ATV!

(over 90cc engine size)

If you are under the age of 16,
operating an adult-size ATV increases
your chance of severe injury or death.

Almost one-half of ATV-related deaths
and injuries are to youths under 16.
Most deaths have occurred on adult-size ATVs!

NEVER operate an adult-size ATV
if you are under age 16.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission — Washington, D.C. 20207

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

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